

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for supplying oxygen to a water purification process, said method comprising:

- a) providing an oxygen carrier of at least one copolymer of dimethylsiloxane, ethylene oxide and propylene oxide;
- b) adding said oxygen carrier to the water ~~purifying~~ purification process; and
- c) contacting said oxygen carrier with an ~~oxygen-containing~~ oxygen-containing gas.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said copolymer is added as an emulsion, or as a copolymer immobilized on and/or in a support.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 2, wherein said ~~support-immobilized~~ support-immobilized copolymer further includes immobilized microorganisms thereon.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 2 or 3, wherein said support is selected from the group consisting of organic supports and ~~non-organic~~ inorganic supports.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said oxygen containing gas is added to the process either continuously or batch-wise.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said water purification process comprises aerobic steps and wherein said copolymer is added to the said aerobic steps of the water purifying process.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one copolymer comprises 10-40 % by weight of dimethylsiloxane, 20-60% by weight of ethylene oxide, and 10-60 % by weight of propylene oxide.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method according to claim 7, wherein said copolymer comprises 15-35% by weight of dimethylsiloxane, 25-45% by weight of ethylene oxide and 20-50% by weight of propylene oxide.

9. (Original) Use of at least one copolymer of dimethylsiloxane, ethylene oxide and propylene oxide, as an oxygen carrier in a water purification process.

10. (Original) Use according to claim 9, wherein said at least one copolymer comprises 10-40 % by weight of dimethylsiloxane, 20-60% by weight of ethylene oxide, and 10-60 % by weight of propylene oxide.

11. (Original) Use according to claim 10, wherein said copolymer comprises 15-35% by weight of dimethylsiloxane, 25-45% by weight of ethylene oxide and 20-50% by weight of propylene oxide.